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ELON MUSK TARGETS TWITTER WITH $41 BN TAKEOVER OFFER

The Tesla CEO, the world's richest man, launched the hostile takeover bid days after rejecting a seat on the firm's board

'IT CAN BECOME A PLATFORM FOR FREE SPEECH'

Musk, Twitter's major shareholder with 9.2% stake, has offered to buy the remaining shares for $54.20 apiece in cash. "I invested in Twitter as I believe in its potential to be the platform for free speech around the globe, and I believe free speech is a societal imperative for a functioning democracy," he said in his letter to Twitter chairman Bret Taylor

'WILL TRANSFORM AS A PRIVATE COMPANY'

- "However, since making my investment I now realise the company will neither thrive nor serve this societal imperative in its current form. Twitter needs to be transformed as a private company," he said. Musk added if his "best and final" is not accepted, he will reconsider his position as a shareholder

TWITTER

SAID IT WILL REVIEW THE PROPOSAL AND DECIDE WHAT'S BEST FOR SHAREHOLDERS

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Schools behind Covid uptick in some states

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

COVID cases seem to be going up again in India with some states reporting an increasing number of unvaccinated school-going children testing positive. Doctors say infected students tend to infect their parents, triggering a ripple effect.

Delhi, Haryana, Gujarat, Mizoram and Kerala have reported a spike in cases in the past one week, which prompted Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan to write to them to be vigilant.

However, experts rule out the possibility of a fourth wave as the spread is limited and most cases are mild with no need for hospitalisation

Sushila Kataria, senior director (internal medicine) at Medanta Hospital, Gurgaon, said a surge in cases was expected after schools opened but not in such a high number. "It is difficult for children to follow Covid protocols. The only good thing is that most patients have mild symptoms," she said.

On Tuesday, three schools in the Delhi National Capital Region closed down after several students, and even teachers, tested positive.

The main reason for the spread seems to be the lifting of curbs and making masks optional. "We should not discard all precautions at once, even as we resume our normal life. The match is not over yet," said Prof K S Reddy, president, Public Health Foundation of India.

NATION WIDE	APR 13	APR 14
Fresh cases	1,088	1,007
Recoveries	1,081	816
Deaths	26	7

KARNATAKA	APR 13	APR 14
Fresh cases	52	43
Recoveries	86	54
Deaths	0	0

FAB-O-METER TAKE YOUR SHOT
April 13: 12,84,749 doses
April 14: 5,56,837 doses
TOTAL DOSES 1,84,43,33,775

PARVEEN BEGI
SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU
Becoming PM despite being from rural areas, extremely poor and hailing farmer families strengthens faith in great traditions of Indian democratic arrangement. It gives confidence to the youth.
- Narendra Modi

(Clockwise from top-left) The grand exterior of the Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in Delhi on Thursday; and galleries on Jawaharlal Nehru, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Lal Bahadur Shastri and Indira Gandhi

Celebrating the leadership legacy

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday inaugurated the Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya, a museum in Delhi that commemorates the memory of all prime ministers of India since Independence. Here's a look

15,600 sq m
Total span of the Pradhan Mantri Sangrahalaya

43 Galleries
housed in the Teen Murti Bhavan campus

4,000
PEOPLE CAN VISIT IT AT A TIME

₹271 cr
Cost of construction

14 PMs' contributions showcased

GANDHIS STAY AWAY

Relatives of Charan Singh, P V Narasimha Rao, H D Deve Gowda, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Morarji Desai and Lal Bahadur Shastri attend

But no-show from members of Nehru-Gandhi family that gave the country three PMs

Former PM Manmohan Singh could not make it due to ill-health

It has two blocks. Block I is existing Nehru Memorial Museum, which has been revamped. Block II is the new building dedicated to other PMs

BLOCK I houses belongings of Jawaharlal Nehru, his personal library and collection of speeches; gifts to all PMs; and a room dedicated to the Constituent Assembly

BLOCK II gallery has a 360-degree immersive room — without shadows that ushers you into the world of PMs showcasing their contributions

Has a chamber with helicopter pod and virtual reality with 180-degree projection of future projects

The entrance has a 3D printed National Emblem rotating in the air

PROMINENT EXHIBITS

A charkha (spinning wheel) Lal Bahadur Shastri received as wedding gift

Jail diaries of Jai Prakash Narayan during Emergency

Badminton racquet of Shastri

Morarji Desai's copy of Bhagvad Gita in English and Tulsi beads mala

Charan Singh's book — India's poverty and its solution (1964)

P V Narasimha Rao's spectacles

Handwritten letters of Rajiv Gandhi to Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit

BJP TOP BRASS PUSHES KSE TO QUIT

Eshwarappa says it's his own decision to avoid embarrassment to party, govt; Will submit resignation to CM today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Shivamogga/Bengaluru

AFTER sustained refusal to resign after being named accused in the case of suicide of a BJP leader and contractor on Tuesday, intervention of central BJP leaders finally forced Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) Minister KS Eshwarappa to announce that he would resign from Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's cabinet on Friday evening.

Sources privy to the meetings between senior BJP leaders from Karnataka and central party leaders in New Delhi informed *The New Indian Express* that the BJP's central leadership was wary of the damage the issue could cause to the party ahead of the 2023 Assembly elections in the state. The central leaders reportedly conveyed to Eshwarappa that he should step down, citing the examples of other leaders resigning and taking moral responsibility when faced with such allegations in the past.

Eshwarappa, who was defiant till Wednesday and had the backing of the chief minister and state BJP leaders, however, claimed that he on his own decided to resign on moral grounds to avoid embarrassment to the government and the party. He denied that central or state leaders directed or convinced him to step down. "Resigning from the post is a voluntary decision," he insisted.

"I had decided to step down once the FIR was filed against me. I do not want to cause embarrassment to our government and our leaders," he told the media at his home town Shivamogga on Thursday evening. He will arrive in Bengaluru on Friday evening to submit his resignation to the chief minister.

Eshwarappa said that the BJP in 2017 had sought the resignation of then minister in the Congress government KJ George after he was named by police officer Ganapathi, who committed suicide. "I too will adhere to moral standards by resigning," the minister said.

"I will not be a scapegoat in this issue. I strongly believe in my family deity Sri Chowdeshwari Devi. Even if I am one per cent guilty in Santosh Patil's suicide case, let the deity punish me," he said, appealing to Bommai to order a detailed inquiry into the contractor's suicide.

CONTINUED ON: P4

KPCC president DK Shivakumar climbs on top of a barricade during a protest rally demanding the arrest of RDPR Minister KS Eshwarappa in Bengaluru on Thursday

SEPARATE TEAMS FORMED TO PROBE PATIL'S SUICIDE

Udupi: A day after the postmortem was conducted on the body of contractor **Santosh Patil** at Manipal on Wednesday, Udupi SP Vishnuvardhan formed separate teams to conduct the investigation. The teams will head to Chikkamagaluru, Davanagere, Shivamogga and other places to gather evidence. A woman police officer will go to Belagavi to record the statement of Patil's wife.

Rain hits traffic, water gushes into homes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

FOR the second consecutive day, thundershowers brought many parts of the city to a standstill. While traffic moved at snail's pace, residents of Bengaluru South had a tough time.

Water gushed into at least 12 houses in Ward 167, Thyagarajanagar, and BBMP officials and rescue teams were pressed into service immediately, to clear the water and bring the situation under control. South Zone recorded 45mm of rain.

Traffic came to a grinding halt for around an hour near Kamakhya theatre on Ring Road, after water from the adjoining storm water drain started overflowing, and when water from the overhead bridge started pouring down.

CONTINUED ON: P2

EXPRESS READ

11-year-old, entangled in wire of swing, dies

Bengaluru: An 11-year-old girl, who was caught in the plastic wire of a swing she was playing on, asphyxiated to death at her home at Kenchanahalli on Magadi Road on Monday. The parents of the girl, Bhavana Dikshith, rushed her to a hospital where she was declared brought dead. P3

ALL ROADS LEAD TO *KGF CHAPTER 2*

Fans throng Triveni Theatre to watch *KGF 2* in Bengaluru on Thursday | SHRIRAM BN

A SHARADHAA @Bengaluru

THE much-hyped, much-anticipated, multi-lingual action drama *KGF Chapter 2* opened to massive crowds in cities across the country and world on Thursday. Coming four years after the first edition of the movie, the Yash-starrer lived up to the hype, going by the response of theatregoers.

With over 40 lakh tickets sold on BookMyShow ahead of its release, it opened in over 10,000 screens across the world. Karnataka alone had over 450 screens and 2,500-plus shows for the movie on the first day. It was released on 350 screens in Tamil Nadu, 400 screens in Kerala, 1,000 screens in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, and 3,500 screens in North India. On average, the theatres ran six shows on Day 1. Trade analysts said the movie has made over ₹120 crore on Day 1, and it includes collections of ₹40 crore in the state.

The theatres showing the movie were decked up in colourful festoons and large cutouts of the star. Crackers were burst inside cinema halls, while fans threw coins and currency notes at the screen accompanied by hoots, applause and whistles at regular intervals.

CONTINUED ON: P5

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